

REMARKS

In a FINAL Office Action dated 27 December 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,101,480 issued to Conmy, and rejected claims 4-7, 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Conmy Patent as applied to claims 1, 8 and further in view of U.S. Patent No 5,754,306 issued to Taylor. The Examiner further rejected claims 15-16, 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 6,253,203, issued to O'Flaherty and claims 17-23, 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the O'Flaherty Patent as applied to claims 15, 24 and further in view of published PCT Application WO 94/16398 to Page. Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 15, 24.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,101,480 issued to Conmy, and rejected claims 4-7, 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Conmy Patent as applied to claims 1, 8 and further in view of U.S. Patent No 5,754,306 issued to Taylor, noting with respect thereto:

As to claims 1 and 8, Conmy teaches a system which including 'a data Management system for automatically maintaining address information in user address books' [see Abstract, col 1, line 60-65, fig 1, element 202, element 212], examiner interpreting address book corresponds to Conmy's electronic calendar that maintains name and address book for users as detailed in col 1, line 62-64, 'means for storing, for each of a plurality of subscribers, a subscriber address book comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual' [col 1, line 60-67, col 2, line 1-3, col 3, line 45-55, fig 1], Conmy specifically teaches database element 200 stores one or more profiles, element 202, one or more calendar files element 210, and one or more name and address files element 212 as detailed in fig 1, further it is noted that name and address files element 212 containing list all of the names and electronic mail addresses for a plurality of all of the users as detailed in col 3, line 51-53, also it is noted that Conmy specifically teaches for example name and address file may be created for each invitee, [col 3, line 52-53], 'means for storing a set of individual data, including address data, for each of said individuals listed in each subscriber address book for said plurality of subscribers' [col 3, line 38-49, line 66-67, col 4, line 1-5], subscribers corresponds to users, individual data including address data for each individual corresponds to user profiles associated with respective

Serial No. 09/502,728
13212.107US (Was 9203/013)
Doc. 13870, Page 4 of 11

names and addresses as detailed fig 1, element 202, 212, 'responsive to a change in a set of said individual data associated with an identified individual, for propagating said change to ones of said plurality of subscriber address books which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual' [col 8, line 66-67, col 9, line 1-5, col 10, line 34-39], Conmy teaches specifically name/address book is kept for each person are in the same database, so that calendar information may be exchanged, identified individual corresponds to user based on user profile.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the cited Conmy Patent and the Examiner's remarks and has amended independent claims 1, 8 to emphasize the claimed differences between Applicant's system and the system taught by the Conmy Patent. In particular, the wording of independent claims 1, 8 has been revised to maintain the same scope of the claims, but to contain recitations that more precisely articulate Applicant's claimed invention.

The Conmy Patent discloses a meeting reservation system for a networked computer system that contains a list (212) of the users who are connected to the network. The list of users includes the user's name and address [column 3, lines 50-52]. The Conmy system also stores profile data (202) that notes the user's hours of work, physical location, etc and calendar data (210) that catalogs existing meeting commitments [column 3, lines 56-64]. The profile and calendar data is necessary for the Conmy system to determine a user's availability for meetings that are to be scheduled [column 5, lines 45-62]. The Conmy system is therefore a flat file that contains n entries, one for each user, including the user profile data. The Conmy Patent fails to show or suggest a system that stores a plurality of user personal address books, each of which contains a plurality of entries input by the user, with each entry containing the identity of an individual as well as data associated with that individual, such as address data. The Conmy Patent also fails to show or suggest the coordinated management of the users' personal address books in the form of address updates, since this system is exclusively directed to the task of scheduling meetings and is exclusively a single layer system of n user profiles. Therefore, the propagation of changes, as claimed by Applicant, is impossible to implement in the Conmy system.

Serial No. 09/502,728
13212.107US (Was 9203/013)
Doc. 13870, Page 5 of 11

since this is a single layer system, with the user profile changes impacting only a single entry.

In contrast, Applicant's address book maintenance system is a hierarchical system that contains a plurality of user address books, each of which contains a plurality of entries, one for each individual selected by the user, including individual address data. Applicant's system is therefore a multi-layer system wherein n address books are maintained by Applicant's system, each of which contains m entries, and each entry containing k data entries, each associated with the individual identified by that entry. Applicant's system also automatically propagates changes to the address book entry data corresponding to an identified individual, as entered by a subscriber into their address book, to all other address book entries corresponding to the identified individual in the address books of other subscribers. Thus, each subscriber maintains their own address book of individuals, and Applicant's system ensures that all the corresponding entries in all of the subscribers' address books are consistent. For example, when an individual moves, their address data, when changed by one subscriber, is automatically changed for all subscribers who have this individual listed in their personal address book. This structure was not clearly stated in the original claims and is now articulated in the following manner (in claim 1 for example):

A data management system for automatically maintaining address information in a plurality of subscriber address books, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of subscriber address books, each said address book comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual and including address data for each of said named individuals; and

means, responsive to a change in a set of said individual data associated with an identified individual, for propagating said change to ones of said plurality of subscriber address books which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual.

Applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 8 are now allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the cited Conmy Patent since the Conmy Patent fails to show or suggest Applicant's recited "means for storing a plurality of subscriber address books, each said address book comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual and including address data for each of said named individuals," or "means,

Serial No. 09/502,728
13212,107US (Was 9203/013)
Doc. 13870, Page 6 of 11

responsive to a change in a set of said individual data associated with an identified individual, for propagating said change to ones of said plurality of subscriber address books which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual." Applicant believes that claims 2-3, 9-10 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the cited Conmy Patent since these claims depend on an allowable base claim. Applicant also believes that claims 4-7, 11-14 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the Conmy Patent as applied to claims 1, 8 and further in view of U.S. Patent No 5,754,306 issued to Taylor since these claims depend on an allowable base claim.

The Examiner further rejected claims 15-16, 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 6,253,203, issued to O'Flaherty and claims 17-23, 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the O'Flaherty Patent as applied to claims 15, 24 and further in view of published PCT Application WO 94/16398 to Page, noting with respect thereto:

As to claims 15, 24, O'Flaherty teaches a system which including 'a data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members' [see Abstract, col 2, line 21-29], database management system corresponds to O'Flaherty's fig 1, automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities corresponds to collection of personal data of individual user or consumer or customer for example proliferation of membership as detailed in col 2, line 21-29, plurality of communities corresponds to banking, shopping, and the like as detailed in col 1, line 57-63, 'means for storing, for each of a plurality of communities, community membership data comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual who is a member of said community' [col 1, line 57-67, col 2, line 57-67, col 7, line 1-15], examiner interpreting plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual corresponds to O'Flaherty fig 2A, 3A, community membership corresponds to either banking, credit card transaction profile and the like as detailed in col 1, line 57-60, 'storing a set of individual data for each of said individuals listed as a member in each community for said plurality of communities' [see fig 2A, 3A], O'Flaherty specifically teaches for example a logical model of the secure data warehouse that containing customer table element 202 having identity information, personal information, as detailed in fig 2A, 3A, 'providing a user with access to a set of said individual data of an identified individual who is a member of a same community as said user' [col 8, line 35-49], O'Flaherty teaches privileged view element 262 permits viewing, analysis, and alteration of information, more specifically user to view, specify, and change consumer privacy

Serial No. 09/502,728
13212.107US (Was 9203/013)
Doc. 13870, Page 7 of 11

preferences as detailed in col 8, line 45-49, 'responsive to a change in individual data associated with said identified individual, for propagating said change to all of said plurality of communities in which said individual is a member' [col 8, line 35-47, col 10, line 9-16, line 32-39], O'Flaherty teaches updating consumer or customer's privileged requirements for example inserting new customers, deleting old customer, and customer's profile and like, further it is also noted that detailed customer profile is collected and propagated to database as detailed in col 10, line 35-39.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the cited O'Flaherty Patent and the Examiner's remarks and has amended independent claims 15, 24 to emphasize the claimed differences between Applicant's system and the system taught by the O'Flaherty Patent.

The O'Flaherty Patent discloses a privacy enhanced database that controls access to the consumer data stored therein via a dataview operation which has a privacy mask. Each consumer can set a consumer privacy parameter that defines the range of access permitted to the data that they have stored in the database. The O'Flaherty privacy scheme reviews a requesting entity's data privileges and compares these with the consumer privacy parameter set by the consumer who owns the portion of the data requested by the requesting entity. If the requesting entity's data privileges match the consumer privacy parameter set by the consumer, then access to the data is permitted. However, the O'Flaherty system does not operate to manage a plurality of community address books or automatically change an individual's address book data for all subscribers who are members of the same community and who have this individual listed in their personal address book.

In contrast, Applicant's address book maintenance system propagates changes to the address book entry data corresponding to an identified individual, as entered by a subscriber into their address book, to all other address book entries corresponding to the identified individual in the address books of other subscribers, where the subscriber is a member of the same community as the identified individual. Thus, each subscriber maintains their own address book of individuals, and Applicant's system ensures that all the entries in all of the subscribers' address books are consistent. For example, when an individual moves, their address data, when changed by one subscriber, is

Serial No. 09/502,728
13212.107US (Was 9203/013)
Doc. 13870, Page 8 of 11

automatically changed for all subscribers who are members of the same community and who have this individual listed in their personal address book. This structure was not clearly stated in the original claims and is now articulated in the following manner (in claim 15 for example):

A data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members, comprising:

means for storing community membership data for a plurality of communities, each said community comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual who is a member of said community and including a set of individual data for each of said individuals;

means for providing a user with access to a set of said individual data of an identified individual who is a member of a same community as said user; and

means, responsive to a change in individual data associated with said identified individual, for propagating said change to all of said plurality of communities in which said individual is a member.

Thus, Applicant believes that claims 15, 24 are now allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the cited O'Flaherty Patent and claims 17-23, 26-32 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the Conmy Patent as applied to claims 15, 24 and further in view of published PCT Application WO 94/16398 to Page since these claims depend on an allowable base claim.

In summary, Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 15, 24.

The Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance in this application in light of the amendments and arguments set forth herein. The undersigned attorney requests Examiner Channavajjala to telephone if a conversation could expedite prosecution. Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additionally required payment of fees to deposit account #50-1848.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No. 09/502,728
13212.107US (Was 9203/013)
Doc. 13870, Page 9 of 11

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

1. (Twice Amended) A data management system for automatically maintaining address information in a plurality of subscriber address books, comprising:
means for storing[, for each of] a plurality of [subscribers, a] subscriber address books, each said address book comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;

means for storing a set of individual data,] and including at least address data[,] for [each of] said named individuals [listed in each subscriber address book for said plurality of subscribers]; and

means, responsive to a change in [a set of said individual] data associated with an identified individual, for propagating said change to ones of said plurality of subscriber address books which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual.

8. (Twice Amended) A method of operating a data management system for automatically maintaining address information in a plurality of subscriber address books, comprising the steps of:

storing[, for each of] a plurality of [subscribers, a] subscriber address books, each said address book comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;

storing a set of individual address data,] and including at least address data[,] for [each of] said named individuals [listed in each subscriber address book for said plurality of subscribers]; and

propagating, in response to a change in [a set of said individual] data associated with an identified individual, said change to ones of said plurality of subscriber address books which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual.

15. (Twice Amended) A data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a

Serial No. 09/502,728
13212.107US (Was 9203/013)
Doc. 13870, Page 10 of 11

plurality of members, comprising:

means for storing[, for each of a plurality of communities,] community membership data for a plurality of communities, each said community comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual who is a member of said community[;

means for storing] and including a set of individual data for each of said individuals [listed as a member in each community for said plurality of communities];

means for providing a user with access to a set of said individual data of an identified individual who is a member of a same community as said user; and

means, responsive to a change in individual data associated with said identified individual, for propagating said change to all of said plurality of communities in which said individual is a member.

24. (Twice Amended) A method of operating a data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members, comprising the steps of:

storing[, for each of a plurality of communities,] community membership data for a plurality of communities, each said community comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual who is a member of said community[;

storing] and including a set of individual data for each of said individuals [listed as a member in each community for said plurality of communities];

providing a user with access to a set of said individual data of an identified individual who is a member of a same community as said user; and

propagating, in response to a change in individual data associated with said identified individual, said change to all of said plurality of communities in which said individual is a member.

Serial No. 09/502,728
13212.107US (Was 9203/013)
Doc. 13870, Page 11 of 11